

## Session 121 - (2015-2016)

**H 3184 General Bill, By Pope, Cole, Anderson, Bales, G.A. Brown, R.L. Brown, Finlay, Felder, Funderburk, Hart, Knight, Lucas, Murphy, Newton, Norman, Norrell, Putnam, Rivers, Southard, Spires, Tallon, Taylor, Wells, Williams, Willis, Bernstein, Long, Douglas, Henderson, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, McCoy, McKnight, Clary, M.S. McLeod, Thayer, W.J. McLeod, Weeks, J.E. Smith and Stavrinakis**

**Similar (S 0001, S 0014, S 0074, H 3185, H 3722)**

**Summary:** Ethics Reform Act

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-310, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION AND ITS MEMBERSHIP, SO AS TO RECONSTITUTE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015, TO CONSIST OF FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, FOUR MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE SUPREME COURT, TWO MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE SENATE, RESPECTIVELY, TO PROVIDE FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THESE MEMBERS, TO PROVIDE FOR OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS' TERMS OF OFFICE AND MANNER OF THEIR REMOVAL UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 8-13-320, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE DUTIES, POWERS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, SO AS TO REVISE THESE DUTIES, POWERS, AND PROCEDURES INCLUDING PROVISIONS TO VEST WITH THE COMMISSION THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO INITIATE OR RECEIVE COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ITS STAFF, AND CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO INITIATE OR RECEIVE COMPLAINTS AGAINST JUDGES AND OTHER JUDICIAL OFFICIALS OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THEIR STAFFS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROCESSING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, STAFF, AND CANDIDATES PURSUANT TO SPECIFIED PROCEDURES AND FOR THE REFERRAL OF SUBSTANTIVE COMPLAINTS TO THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE OR SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEES FOR DISPOSITION TOGETHER WITH THE ETHICS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROCESSING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST JUDGES AND OTHER JUDICIAL OFFICIALS OR THEIR STAFF PURSUANT TO SPECIFIED PROCEDURES AND, AFTER INVESTIGATION, FOR THE REFERRAL OF SUBSTANTIVE COMPLAINTS TO THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND THE SUPREME COURT FOR DISPOSITION TOGETHER WITH THE ETHICS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED; TO AMEND SECTIONS 8-13-530 AND 8-13-540, BOTH AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE DUTIES, FUNCTIONS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEES, SO AS TO REVISE THESE DUTIES, FUNCTIONS, AND PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE ABOVE PROVISIONS AND TO MAKE OTHER CHANGES; BY ADDING SECTION 8-13-545 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE HOUSE OR SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEES TO ISSUE FORMAL ADVISORY OPINIONS AND PROVIDE FOR THEIR EFFECT AND APPLICABILITY; AND BY ADDING ARTICLE 6 TO CHAPTER 13, TITLE 8 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR JUDICIAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURES IN REGARD TO THE ABOVE PROVISIONS.

<b>12/18/14</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Prefiled</b>
<b>12/18/14</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Referred to Committee on Judiciary</b>
<b>01/13/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 137)</b>
<b>01/13/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Referred to Committee on Judiciary (House Journal-page 137)</b>
<b>01/21/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Thayer, W.J.McLeod</b>
<b>01/21/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Committee report: Favorable with amendment Judiciary (House Journal-page 3)</b>
<b>01/22/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Weeks</b>
<b>01/22/15</b>		<b>Scrivener's error corrected</b>
<b>01/27/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Member(s) request name added as sponsor: J.E.Smith, Stavrinakis</b>
<b>01/27/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Requests for debate-Rep(s). Pope, Simrill, JE Smith, Felder, Norman, Delleney, Taylor, Hixon, Clary, Weeks, DC Moss, Hicks, Toole, Ballentine, Hiott, Corley, Hodges, Mack, Anderson, Cole, GA Brown, RL Brown, MS McLeod, Tallon, Bales, Crosby, Clyburn, Hosey, McEachern, Neal, Douglas, King, Gilliard, Forrester, Henegan, Jefferson (House Journal-page 33)</b>
<b>01/27/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Debate adjourned until Wed. 1-28-15 (House Journal-page 38)</b>
<b>01/28/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Amended (House Journal-page 25)</b>
<b>01/28/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Read second time (House Journal-page 25)</b>
<b>01/28/15</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Roll call Yeas-109 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 53)</b>

01/29/15	House	Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 19)
01/29/15	House	Roll call Yeas-102 Nays-1 (House Journal-page 21)
01/29/15	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 4)
01/29/15	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 4)
01/29/15		Scrivener's error corrected